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CUNDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1961.

SUBMITTED BY

J.J.A. REID, T.D., M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Council Offices,  
6 North Street,  
Oundle.





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# OUNDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Year Ended 31st December, 1961.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my third Annual Report on the health of Oundle during the year 1961.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

Population: Estimated mid-year population - 3,300.

#### Live births:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate.....	24	19
Illegitimate.....	5	1
<u>Total.....</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>20</u>

Live-birth rate (corrected): 21.5 per 1,000 population  
(England and Wales - 17.4)

Illegitimate live births: 12.2 per cent. of total live births.

Stillbirths: ..... 1

Stillbirth rate: 20 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths.  
(England and Wales - 18.7)

Total live and stillbirths: ..... 29 21

Infant deaths (under 1 year):..... Nil Nil

Maternal deaths:..... - Nil

Total deaths: ..... 25 27

Death rate (corrected): 7.9 per 1,000 population  
(England and Wales - 12.0).

#### Causes of death

Cardiovascular diseases.....	7	15
Malignant disease.....	5	3
Influenza.....	5	4
Respiratory disease.....	4	2
Other causes.....	4	3
<u>Total.....</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>27</u>

As has been pointed out in previous annual reports, the population of Oundle is too small to enable more than strictly limited deductions to be drawn from these statistics. It would appear, however, that Oundle, with a birth rate above and a death rate below the national averages, is a healthy place in which to live. The illegitimacy rate is unusually high but it would be unsafe to draw conclusions from this because of the small total number of births involved.

The deaths follow a familiar pattern, with diseases of the heart and blood vessels at the top of the list. This is the usual finding in Britain and, as I noted in my report for 1959, our ability to prevent these deaths is still very limited, although research into dietary and other factors provides us with hope for the future. Influenza, pneumonia and bronchitis collectively caused 14 deaths. Once



again, the prevention of such deaths in older people is difficult, although vaccination against influenza has a limited value and, in the case of bronchitis, both atmospheric pollution and smoking directly contribute to many deaths throughout the country each year.

In 1959 I referred to the problem of smoker's cancer of the lung, remarking that this had killed some 20,000 people in England and Wales. By 1960 this figure had risen to 22,000 and it is virtually certain that the figure will be even higher in 1961. In the year under review it was again found that lung cancer had contributed to mortality in Oundle. There has recently been published the report of the Royal College of Physicians dealing with the effects of smoking on health. This contains no facts which were not already known to those interested in preventive medicine, but the authority of the Royal College, added to a previous pronouncement by the Medical Research Council, has at last led the Minister of Health to make a categorical statement about the relationship between smoking and cancer of the lung.

the subject  
It is impossible adequately to discuss/in an annual report such as this, a reasoned account of the scientific evidence requiring a publication of the size of the Royal College of Physicians' report if justice is to be done to the topic. I hope that members of this Council and of the population of Oundle will read the College's report, for many of the statements about lung cancer and smoking which one hears in public are of the "I believe" or "I don't believe" variety, and are not founded on any attempt to read the evidence. This type of statement is all very well when applied to belief or disbelief in fairies but, in the case of lung cancer, it is pitiful to hear human beings with powers of reasoning (and on occasion even including members of the medical profession), making such utterances without having made the slightest attempt to study the facts. It has been said that the evidence incriminating smoking is sufficient to convince anyone but a tobacco manufacturer. With that statement I am in wholehearted agreement.

The hard facts show that the more one smokes, the greater becomes the chance of developing lung cancer, the heavy cigarette smoker having a one in eight chance of contracting that most unpleasant disease - all too often in his fifties, when family responsibilities are likely to be at their greatest. The answer to this problem lies in never starting to smoke or, if a smoker, in giving it up. The alternative is to forego cigarettes for cigars, cheroots or a pipe, all of which are much less deadly.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications :

Measles.....	74
Influenzal pneumonia.....	5
Whooping cough.....	2
Scarlet fever.....	1
Enteric fever.....	1
Meningococcal meningitis.....	1

The only outbreak of any note during 1961 was measles. I must also mention a solitary case of enteric fever, which occurred in an arrival from overseas. The condition was promptly diagnosed by his general practitioner and what proved to be a prolonged period of treatment was begun. Precautionary measures were taken, with most helpful co-operation from the general practitioner, and no other cases of the disease occurred.

## IMMUNISATION

The following figures have kindly been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

### Number of immunisations carried out.

	<u>Diphtheria</u>							<u>Booster</u>
	<u>Under 1.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	
Diphtheria Immunisation only.	1	-	-	-	2	2	5	3
Combined Diphtheria/Whooping Cough.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Combined Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus	15	1	3	1	-	2	-	13
Total Diphtheria Immunisations	16	1	3	1	2	4	5	22
<u>Whooping Cough only</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

### Number of Children who have completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation

Age at 31.12.61 i.e. Born in year	<u>Under 1.</u> 1961	<u>1.</u> 1960	<u>2.</u> 1959	<u>3.</u> 1958	<u>4.</u> 1957	<u>5-9.</u> 1952- 1956	<u>10-14.</u> 1947- 1951	<u>Total</u> Under 15.
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Number Immunised	7	17	25	35	20	130	129	363
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### Poliomyelitis

<u>Under 1.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>15 and over</u>	<u>Third inj's all ages.</u>	<u>Fourth inj's (5-11 yrs.)</u>
4	13	6	1	-	4	9	37	83	136	164

### Smallpox

	<u>Under 1.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2-4</u>	<u>5-14</u>	<u>15 or over</u>	<u>Total</u>
Primary	10	1	3	3	1	18
Re-vaccination	-	-	-	-	-	-

In the course of my last two reports to the Council I have stressed the value of immunisation in infancy against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and smallpox. As a generation of mothers grows up which never knew diphtheria it is becoming increasingly difficult to ensure an adequate level of immunisation amongst their children. The same will no doubt in due course occur as far as poliomyelitis is concerned, although the recent advent of a vaccine which can be taken by mouth should prove more popular with mothers and certainly with babies. As far as smallpox is concerned, recent events have underlined the desirability of vaccination.

### CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR HEALTH EDUCATION.

In common with most local authorities, Oundle subscribes to this organisation and will, I hope, continue to do so.



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE

Medical Officer of Health: J.J.A. Reid, T.D., M.D., B.Sc., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor, Water Engineer & Public Health Inspector: R.E.T. Chinnery,  
Cert. S.I.B.

District Nurses: Miss L.L. Misson and Miss E.M. Cates.

Health Visitor: Miss K. Pulley.

## WATER SUPPLY

The water supply throughout Cundle Urban District has, with one exception, been satisfactory in quantity and quality during the year. Bacteriological tests on samples have all been reported as very satisfactory, and a chemical analysis gave the following result:-

Reaction.....	pH 7.3			
Chloride.....	6.7 parts per 100,000			
Ammonia (Free and Saline).....	0.0018	"	"	"
Ammonia (Albuminoid).....	0.0116	"	"	"
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs at 37° C...	0.0924	"	"	"
Nitrates (expressed as Nitrogen)....	0.10	"	"	"
Nitrites.....	absent			
Poisonous Metals.....	absent			
Total Hardness.....	37.5	"	"	"

A complaint was received from a resident to the effect that the water supply was leaving a green deposit in his kettle. This proved to be due to an excess of copper in the water as obtained from the stand pipe serving his house. As a sample taken directly from the mains was free from copper, it was apparent that the water coming from the stand pipe must have been contaminated whilst in the copper pipe which conveyed it from the mains to the tap. This was confirmed by examination of the pipe, and it was clear that copper was being added to the water in proportion to the time it remained static in the pipe. As this pipe was a private one leading to a group of houses without drainage or other amenities and as these houses are likely to be the subject of formal action under the Housing Acts, it seemed unlikely that the owner would be willing to face the substantial expense of replacing the considerable length of supply piping involved.

The amount of copper present, while unlikely to endanger health, was nonetheless undesirable. As has been stated, the longer the water was stationary in the pipe, the higher became its copper content, particularly high levels occurring after the tap had been out of use overnight. This was confirmed when it was found that, after the tap had been allowed to run long enough to drain the supply pipe, a sample of the resultant water contained copper at an acceptable level. Pending action on the houses concerned, the residents have been advised to run the tap for an adequate period before using water from it for drinking purposes.

## SEWERAGE

As will be seen from the report of the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, work on the new disposal works and ancillary services began in 1961 and will be completed in the present year.

# FACTORY ACT

## Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections by the Public Health Inspector for the purposes of provisions concerning health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	17	17	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	1	1	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	18	18	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found - None.

## Part VIII of the Act.

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nil

### CONCLUDING REMARKS.

This is the third and final report which I shall submit as Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District of Oundle, a post which I have greatly enjoyed. I should like to offer my thanks to members of the Council and to my fellow officers for their courtesy to me at all times, and particularly to Mr. R.E.T. Chinnery for the great amount of help which he has given me. It has also been a pleasure to co-operate with the general practitioners of Oundle.

I have the honour to be,

Yours faithfully,

J.J.A. REID.

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1962.





OUNDLIE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1961.

SUBMITTED BY

R.E.T. CHITTRY, F.F.S., M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I.

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Council Offices,  
6 North Street,  
OUNDLIE

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHILIP H. KATZ, M.D., F.R.C.P. (C), F.R.C.P. (I), F.R.C.P. (LOND.)

Professor of Medicine

Department of Medicine, University of Chicago

Chicago, Illinois

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OUNDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC

HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Year Ended 31st December, 1961.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this my Fourth Annual Report upon Sanitary Conditions in the Urban District, and a summary of the work carried out in my Department during the year under review.

1. Water Supplies

The supply and distribution of water at adequate pressure and of a good standard of purity was maintained throughout the year. It was not found necessary to impose any restrictions upon consumption.

Towards the end of the year a short extension of the mains was carried out to serve the 12 old persons bungalows being built in the former Inkerman Yard, re-named Inkerman Way.

Samples of water were taken regularly from the mains at various points in the town and from the Pumping Station, and all reports upon these samples were 'very Satisfactory'. Frequent checks were also made of the residual chlorine content of the water following the sand filtration and chlorination treatment given at the works in order to ensure the sterility of water supplied to consumers.

During the year 38,524,000 gallons of water were abstracted from the Council's Barnwell Road source, and 20,287,000 gallons were purchased in bulk under the Agreement with the Oundle and Thrapston Rural District Council. A total of 58,811,000 gallons was, therefore, supplied to consumers, equivalent to 52.9 gallons per head per day. This is a comparatively high figure, but it is worthy of note that in 1959 the consumption was 62.5 gallons per head per day. It would appear that closer attention to waste prevention generally has had an effect on reducing the actual consumption of water in spite of the number of new houses built, and the additional water consuming fittings provided in existing houses.

Nene and Ouse Water Board

Negotiations for the formation of the Board, which will take over this Council's duties as a Water Authority were becoming finalised at the end of the year and it was anticipated that the new Board would come into being early in 1962.

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Good progress was made during the year on the construction of the new disposal works and the scheme should be in operation well before the end of 1962.

Meanwhile, some difficulty is being experienced in keeping the old disposal site in reasonably efficient operation while avoiding all possible expenditure.



### 3. Housing

#### (a) Provision of New Houses by Local Authority

Demolition of the 27 houses included in the Inkerman Yard Clearance and Redevelopment Scheme commenced early in the year. Owing to protracted negotiations with land owners, which, incidentally have not yet been completed, part of the scheme had to be deferred and it was not possible to start actual site works until 1st October, 1961. No houses, were therefore, completed by the Council during the year.

The Council did, however, make wise provision for future housing activities by deciding to purchase a site approximately 12 acres, immediately adjoining their Rock Road - Springfield Road Estate, which will provide land for Council houses for at least five years.

#### (b) Private Development

Fifteen houses were completed by private owners as against five the previous year. Owing to the increasing difficulty of prospective owners in finding sites upon which to build, the Council decided to proceed with negotiations to purchase approximately 12 acres of land ripe for development, with a view to providing sites for private development for an estimated period of 5 years.

Once again, owing to protracted negotiations with the land owners, which, even at the time of making this report, are not completed, little progress can be reported upon this Scheme, and the position is now that it is practically impossible to find a building site in Oundle which is provided with the essential public services.

#### (c) Unfit Houses

During the year 31 unfit houses were demolished under the Demolition Order procedure of the Housing Acts; another unfit house which had been purchased by the Council was sold to an adjoining owner on condition that it was demolished, and at the end of the year an undertaking was being awaited from the owners to modernise a group of six further unfit houses.

The year, therefore, was one of definite progress with regard to what is generally termed Slum Clearance. There are still a number of sub-standard houses, principally small cottages which may well have to be dealt with formally under the Housing Acts, but they are mostly single dwellings or in small groups and represent a very different problem to that in bigger towns where large scale clearance and redevelopment is usually the solution.

Some of the sub-standard houses form part of the street frontages of Oundle which is generally recognised as forming a pleasant, almost unique picture and indiscriminate demolition would destroy this. The difficulty which is experienced, referred to in previous reports is that the cost of modernising these old properties is often prohibitive, so that the Council, while realising they have a duty under the Housing Acts to deal with unfit houses, have to adopt a wisely considerate approach to the problem which, however, often leads to protracted negotiations and delays.

#### (d) Grants for Conversion or Improvements

Two Improvement Grants and twelve Grants for the provision of Standard Amenities were approved during the year and the works carried out. This is considerably better than the previous year when only one Improvement Grant and two Standard Grants were approved.

One aspect of these Grants is disquieting; I refer to the fact that in the majority of cases Grants are applied for in respect of



(d) continued.

owner-occupied houses, whereas it is actually among the tenanted houses where the greatest need for modernisation lies. Owners are now entitled to make an additional 12½% rent charge on the cost to the owner of such improvements and one would have thought this an adequate return on money spent.

There are still a number of dwellings in Oundle lacking in modern conveniences which could and should be provided with them. These schemes, are however, voluntary and the Council have no means of imposing them on the owners and have no other powers for insisting upon such amenities as adequate supplies of hot water, baths, wash basins etc., now generally accepted as being necessities.

4. Refuse Collection and Disposal

This service has been continued efficiently throughout the year, fortunately without serious difficulty regarding sufficient man-power, which is experienced in so many other parts of the country.

The amount of refuse collection seems to increase each year over and above that expected from any new houses built and its character has also changed so that it becomes more and more bulky.

Once again an appeal is made to householders and traders in the town to keep waste paper and cardboard clean and separate from refuse; it is surely not asking too much for old newspapers etc. to be tied up in a bundle once in a while ready for collection day. The sale of waste paper and cardboard brings in revenue to offset the cost of the service; only clean waste can be sold and much sorting after collection could be avoided if householders in particular would co-operate in this way.

5. Public Bathing

The Governors of Oundle School again permitted the use of the School Swimming Pool by schoolchildren of the town generally during the summer holidays and the voluntary efforts of those maintaining the necessary supervision is appreciated by all concerned.

Samples of the swimming pool water were again reported as 'very satisfactory'.

The Oundle Youth Club inaugurated a scheme for raising funds for the provision of an open air pool on the site which the Council have agreed to provide at a nominal rent.

It is hoped to raise sufficient money so that, with the assistance of certain grants which are available for such projects, a well-equipped pool can be provided.

6. Public Conveniences

It is now becoming customary to have to refer in these reports to damage done to coin locks, doors and fittings on these premises and to the time wasted in repeatedly carrying out the repairs necessary and in removing crude drawings and writings from the wall.

It is virtually impossible to identify the culprits but with regard to the disfigurement of the walls the ability of the artists is obviously such that a public lavatory is really the only place suitable for the display of their work.

7. Cemetery and Churchyard

Both were maintained to a reasonable standard, having regard to the inevitable limitations imposed by weather conditions and labour difficulties.



## 8. Slaughterhouses, Food Inspection

There are no licensed Slaughterhouses in the Urban District.

Visits are paid to food premises, particularly in the summer months and the co-operation of food traders generally is appreciated in maintaining a high standard of hygiene generally.

During the year the following amounts of unsound food were surrendered voluntarily:

Minced Meat Loaf .. .. .	12 oz.
Almonds .. .. .	25½ lbs.
Corned Beef .. .. .	6 lbs.
Chopped Pork.. .. .	8 lbs.

The following samples were taken by the Food and Drugs Inspectors of the County Council Weights and Measures Department:

Milk .. .. .	17
Pork Sausages. . . . .	1
Butter. . . . .	1
Margarine. . . . .	1
Soft Drinks .. . . .	2
Essence .. . . .	1
Rose Hip Syrup . . . . .	1
Whisky .. . . .	1
Sausage Rolls. . . . .	1

All were reported satisfactory.

## 9. Disinfection, Disinfestation

No terminal disinfection after Infectious Disease was necessary.

Rat infestation during the autumn and winter months was the most serious for many years. It appears to have been general over the country due to mild weather and favourable breeding conditions during the previous winter and spring. Much more time and attention than usual, therefore, had to be given to deal with the several troublesome infestations experienced.

## 10. General

This Report can only touch briefly upon those important aspects of the Council's work required to be reported annually or of special Interest. Detailed statistics or financial details are not included as these have been furnished to the Council at the appropriate time; the compiling of them for this Report would place a severe strain upon the small Office staff.

The year has seemed a busy one, and one in which I hope the Council feel that reasonable progress was made with work and projects in hand.

Once again I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Chairman of the Council, the Chairmen of Committees and to all the other Members of the Council for their continued support and helpfulness during the year.

My thanks are also due to the Council's workmen under my control for a good year's work done, very often under bad weather conditions when certain work particularly refuse collection, has to be done just the same.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R.E.T.CHINNERY.

- 4 - Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.